

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 CIAE-00 PM-07 INR-11 L-03 ACDA-19

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C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 4825

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MCAP, PFOR, NATO

SUBJECT: ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING FOR DPC PERMREPS

REF: USNATO 3646

SUMMARY: MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON TEAM BRIEF DPC PERMREPS
ON US ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM FOR EUROPE BEFORE END OCTOBER.

END SUMMARY

1. MISSION RECOMMENDS WASHINGTON TEAM BRIEF DPC PERMREPS ON US
ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM FOR EUROPE. IN MISSION VIEW, SUCH A
BRIEFING COULD SERVE TO SUSTAIN INTEREST IN THIS BASIC ISSUE AND
SEIZE ATTENTION AT HIGH LEVELS IN ALLIED GOVERNMENTS. WE WOULD
HOPE FOR RESULTS COMPARABLE IN EFFECT TO THOSE FOLLOWING
FROM COLLOCATED OPERATING BASE BRIEFING GIVEN DPC PERMREPS
LAST MAY. US ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING COULD INCREASE PRESSURE
ON ALLIES TO EXPEDITE ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRESSIVE, COHERENT
ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAMS.

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2. RECOMMEND BRIEFING:

A. POINT UP VITAL IMPORTANCE OF ADEQUATE NATO ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR
CAPABILITY IN VIEW OF THE FORMIDABLE WARSAW PACT ARMOR THREAT.

B. LIST THE GOALS OF THE US ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR PROGRAM.

C. SHOW THE STATUS OF THE US PROGRAM, IN INCLUDE TYPES AND EFFECTIVENESS OF GROUND AND AIR WEAPONS AND EMPLOYMENT CONCEPTS.

D. EMPHASIZE THE IMPORTANCE OF COMPARABLE ACTION (NOT NECESSARILY IDENTICAL HARDWARE) ON THE PART OF OUR ALLIES, (ESPECIALLY IN THE CENTRAL REGION) SO THAT THE ENEMY MUST RECKON WITH A STALWART, COHERENT DEFENSE AGAINST HIS ARMORED POWER ACROSS THE FRONT.

3. THE SPECTER OF A MASSIVE SOVIET ARMORED ASSAULT, STRIKING WITH LIGHTNING RAPIDITY AND CRUSHING ALL BEFORE IT AS IT SPEEDS TOWARDS THE CHANNEL, NEEDS TO BE EXORCISED ONCE AND FOR ALL. THE PROPOSED BRIEFING OFFERS A FURTHER OPPORTUNITY FOR THE US TO DEMONSTRATE THAT CONVENTIONAL DEFENSE IS REASONABLY ATTAINABLE AND TO PERSUADE OUR ALLIES TO SEEK LIKE CAPABILITIES ON A SCALE APPROPRIATE TO THEIR NATIONAL RESOURCES AND NATO DEFENSE RESPONSIBILITIES.

4. BRIEFING TEAM SHOULD CAREFULLY TAILOR BRIEFING FOR DPC PERMREPS. US ARMOR/ANTI-ARMOR BRIEFING FOR THE EWG IN MAY WAS VERY USEFUL AND MADE KEY POINTS BUT CONTAINED SOME OVERLY DETAILED CHARTS THAT WOULD NOT BE APPROPRIATE FOR DPC AMBASSADORS. BRIEFING SHOULD DEMONSTRATE THE DYNAMIC INTERACTION OF ALL US ANTI-ARMOR SYSTEMS AND SHOW HOW US PLANS TO DEFEAT ENEMY ARMOR ATTACKS IN OUR CORPS SECTORS OF RESPONSIBILITY. BRIEFING MIGHT ALSO INCLUDE BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF US FORCE FLEXIBILITY TO ASSIST ADJACENT ALLIED CORPS IF ENEMY ARMOR ATTACK SHOULD BE CONCENTRATED IN A NON-US SECTOR.

5. WE WOULD HOPE THE WASHINGTON TEAM COULD PRESENT THE BRIEFING BEFORE THE END OF OCTOBER. TEAM SHOULD SEND MISSION A COPY OF THE BRIEFING FOR COMMENT AT LEAST TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO PRESENTATION TO LEAVE TIME FOR CHANGES IN VISUAL AIDS. TEAM SHOULD ARRIVE IN BRUSSELS SEVERAL DAYS EARLY FOR DRY RUNS AND FINAL POLISHING.
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WE NEED TO ALLOW SUFFICIENT TIME FOLLOWING THE BRIEFING FOR PERMREPS TO INFLUENCE CAPITALS PRIOR TO THE DECEMBER DPC MINISTERIAL MEETING.
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